



INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

Date of Meeting	21 st January 2020
Report Title	Chief Social Work Officer's Annual Report
Report Number	HSCP.19.088
Lead Officer	Sandra MacLeod, Chief Officer
Report Author Details	Graeme Simpson Chief Social Work Officer
Consultation Checklist Completed	Yes
Directions Required	No
Appendices	a. CSWO Annual Report

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To present members of the Integrated Joint Board the Chief Social Work Officer's Annual Report for year 2018/19. The report is to inform members of the role and responsibilities exercised by the Chief Social Work Officer; to provide information on statutory decision making in the period; and to give a progress report on key areas of social work provision within Aberdeen City.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board:

a) note the content of the Annual Report, as attached at Appendix A.

3. Summary of Key Information

- 3.1 The role of the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) is a statutory post in accordance with the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968, as amended by the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1994. This requires Local Authorities to appoint a CSWO for the purposes of listed social work functions.
- 3.2 The required qualifications of the CSWO are set out in regulations and the post holder must be able to demonstrate senior strategic and operational



INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

experience. National Guidance on the role was published by the Scottish Government in 2009 and was revised in May 2017. It provides an overview of position, outlining the responsibility for values and standards, complex decision making, particularly in relation to deprivation of liberty decisions and professional leadership. The guidance also covers accountability and reporting arrangements.

- 3.3 The CSWO provides advice to the Council on social work matters; undertakes decision making in respect of statutory functions and provides professional governance, leadership and accountability for the delivery of social work and social care services, whether they are provided by the Council or on behalf of the Council by another agency. In its 2016 report on Social Work in Scotland, Audit Scotland outlined the increased complexity of the role: *“With integration and other changes over recent years, the key role of the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) has become more complex and challenging. Councils need to ensure that CSWOs have the status and capacity to enable them to fulfil their statutory responsibilities effectively”*.
- 3.4 This report is consistent with the content and format guidance laid down by the Chief Social Work Adviser for Scottish Government. The annual report does not provide a complete account of social work activity over the year. Rather it provides an overview of the range of services and initiatives in social work and social care and to highlight key achievements and challenges.

4. Implications for IJB

4.1. Equalities

There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.

4.2 Financial

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

4.3 Workforce

There are no direct workforce implications arising from this report.

4.4 Legal

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.



INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

5 Links to ACHSCP Strategic Plan

The delivery of statutory social work services makes a significant contribution to delivery of the ACHSP strategic plan and the CSWO Annual report speaks to aspects of this.

6 Management of Risk

Identified risks(s)



- This report reflects the impact of social work services delivered by the Council, the IJB and commissioned services. It provides a clear narrative as to the critical role social work staff undertake to assess and manage risk posed to and by vulnerable children and adults.
- This report provides assurance to the citizens of Aberdeen City on the quality of social work services delivered to those who meet the threshold for social work support and intervention.
- The delivery of effective social work and social care services is critical to the protection and care of vulnerable children and adults. Failure to discharge our statutory responsibilities effectively can bring significant media interest and scrutiny.

6.2 How might the content of this report impact or mitigate these risks:

- Social work services are subject to the scrutiny of independent inspection via the Care Inspectorate. These inspections provide staff with the opportunity to reflect and learn from their practice and the outcomes they deliver. – Low Risk
- Service users have the opportunity to complain about the quality of services both directly and via the SPSO. A learning approach is actively taken to all complaints. Service users also contribute to inspections via various feedback opportunities enabling them to know that their views are listened to and considered. – Low Risk
- Reputational - The public can be assured that the Council/IJB ensures compliance with legal requirements and identified areas for improvement are addressed – Low risk



INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

Approvals	
	Sandra Macleod (Chief Officer)
	Alex Stephen (Chief Finance Officer)